# FINAL
# DECISION DOCUMENT
# RANGE, CHOCCOLOCCO CORRIDOR, PARCEL 143Q
# FORT McCLELLAN, CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA

**ISSUED BY: THE U. S. ARMY**

**JUNE 2004**

## U.S. ARMY ANNOUNCES DECISION DOCUMENT

This Decision Document presents the determination that no remedial action will be necessary to protect human health and the environment at the Range, Choccolocco Corridor, Parcel 143Q, at Fort McClellan (FTMC) in Calhoun County, Alabama. In addition, this Decision Document provides the site background information used as the basis for the no further action decision with regard to hazardous substances regulated under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Parcel 143Q is located within Choccolocco Corridor at FTMC as shown on Figure 1.

This Decision Document is issued by the U.S. Army Garrison at FTMC with involvement by the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Cleanup Team (BCT). The BCT consists of representatives from the U.S. Army, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4, and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. The BCT is responsible for planning and implementing environmental investigations at FTMC.

Based on the results of a site investigation (SI) completed at the Range, Choccolocco Corridor, Parcel 143Q, the U.S. Army will implement no further action at the site with regard to CERCLA-related hazardous substances. This decision was made by the U.S. Army with concurrence by the BCT.

This Decision Document summarizes site information presented in detail in background documents that are part of the administrative record for the Range, Choccolocco Corridor, Parcel 143Q. The background documents for Parcel 143Q are listed on Page 2 and are available at the public repositories listed on Page 3.

## REGULATIONS GOVERNING SITE

FTMC is undergoing closure by the BRAC Commission under Public Laws 100-526 and 101-510. The 1990 Base Closure Act, Public Law 101-510, established the process by which U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) installations would be closed or realigned. The BRAC Environmental Restoration Program requires investigation and cleanup of federal properties prior to transfer to the public domain. In addition, the Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act (CERFA), Public Law 102-426, requires federal agencies to identify real property on military installations scheduled for closure that can be transferred to the public for redevelopment or reuse. Consequently, the U.S. Army is conducting environmental studies of the impact of suspected contaminants at parcels at FTMC. The BRAC Environmental Restoration Program at FTMC follows the CERCLA process.

## SITE BACKGROUND

FTMC is located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains of northeastern Alabama near the cities of Anniston and Weaver in Calhoun County. FTMC consists of two main areas of government-owned properties: the Main Post and Pelham Range. Until May 1998, the FTMC installation also included the Choccolocco Corridor, a 4,488-acre tract of land that was leased from the State of Alabama. The Main Post, which occupies 18,929 acres, is bounded on the east by the Choccolocco Corridor, which previously connected the Main Post with the Talladega National Forest. Pelham Range, which occupies

**PRIMARY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR PARCEL 143Q**

Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. (ESE), 1998, ***Final Environmental Baseline Survey, Fort McClellan, Alabama***, January.

IT Corporation, 2000, ***Final Human Health and Ecological Screening Values and PAH Background Summary Report, Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama***, July.

Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), 1998, ***Final Background Metals Survey Report, Fort McClellan, Alabama,*** July.

Shaw Environmental, Inc. (Shaw), 2004, ***Final Site Investigation Report, Range, Choccolocco Corridor, Parcel 143Q, Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama,*** June.

22,245 acres, is located approximately 5 miles due west of the Main Post and adjoins the Anniston Army Depot on the southwest.

Parcel 143Q is located in the northwestern portion of Choccolocco Corridor, east of the FTMC Main Post (Figure 1). Choccolocco Corridor was leased from the State of Alabama from 1941 to 1998 for military training activities. Parcel 143Q was originally identified by the EPA Environmental Photographic Interpretation Center on aerial photographs. Based on interviews conducted during the *Final Environmental Baseline Survey, Fort McClellan, Alabama* (EBS) and because cratered impact areas are not evident at the site, Parcel 143Q is presumed to have been a small-arms range (ESE, 1998). The orientation of Parcel 143Q suggests that the direction of fire was to the north.

During site reconnaissance in October 2001, a large mound was observed in the central portion of the parcel. The mound was approximately 100 feet long and had partially buried railroad cross ties near its center. A second mound, approximately 75 feet long, was also observed in the central portion of the parcel. Shell casings from blank ammunition and possible foxholes were also noted at the site.

## SCOPE AND ROLE OF PARCEL

Information from the EBS was used to group areas at FTMC into standardized parcel categories using DOD guidance. All parcels received a designation for one of seven CERFA categories or a non-CERCLA qualifier designation, as appropriate. Parcel 143Q was categorized as a CERFA Category 1 Qualified parcel in the EBS. CERFA Category 1 Qualified parcels are areas that have no evidence of CERCLA-related hazardous substance or petroleum product storage, release, or disposal but that do have other environmental or safety concerns. Parcel 143Q was qualified because chemicals of potential concern may be present at the site as a result of historical range activities (ESE, 1998).

With the issuance of this Decision Document, Parcel 143Q is re-categorized as a CERFA Category 3 parcel. Category 3 parcels are areas where release, disposal, and/or migration of CERCLA-related hazardous substances has occurred but at concentrations that do not require a removal or remedial response (ESE, 1998).

## SITE INVESTIGATION

Shaw Environmental, Inc. (Shaw) conducted an SI at Parcel 143Q to determine whether chemical constituents are present at the site as a result of historical mission-related Army activities (Shaw, 2004). The SI consisted of the collection and analysis of 11 surface soil samples, eight subsurface soil samples, and two groundwater samples. The groundwater samples were collected from two monitoring wells installed during the SI. All samples were analyzed for metals and explosives. Approximately ten percent of the samples were also analyzed for volatile organic compounds (VOC), semivolatile organic compounds (SVOC), pesticides, and herbicides.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION REPOSITORIES**
**FOR FORT McCLELLAN**

**Anniston Calhoun County Public Library**
Reference Section
Anniston, Alabama 36201
Point of Contact: Ms. Sunny Addison
Telephone: (256) 237-8501
Fax: (256) 238-0474
Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Houston Cole Library**
9th Floor
Jacksonville State University
700 Pelham Road
Jacksonville, Alabama 36265
Point of Contact: Ms. Rita Smith (256) 782-5249
Hours of Operation: Monday – Thursday 7:30 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.
Friday 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 3:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Metals, VOCs, SVOCs (primarily polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbon [PAH] compounds), and pesticides were detected in site media at Parcel 143Q. Herbicides and explosive compounds were not detected in any of the samples. To evaluate whether the detected constituents pose an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment, the analytical results were compared to human health site-specific screening levels (SSSL) and ecological screening values (ESV) (IT Corporation, 2000). The SSSLs and ESVs were developed as part of human health and ecological risk assessments for investigations performed under the BRAC Environmental Restoration Program at FTMC. Additionally, metals results exceeding SSSLs and ESVs were compared to background screening values (SAIC, 1998). Site metals data were also evaluated using statistical and geochemical methods to determine if the metals detected in site media were naturally occurring.

Chemicals of potential concern identified in the SI were two metals (aluminum and manganese) and two PAH compounds (benzo[a]pyrene and benzo[k]fluoranthene) in surface soil, and five metals (aluminum, chromium, iron, manganese, and vanadium) in subsurface soil. No chemicals of potential concern were identified in groundwater. The statistical and geochemical evaluation concluded that the metals detected in site media were naturally occurring. The PAHs were attributed to localized, low-level contamination directly related to the railroad ties rather than a widespread release to the environment.

Constituents of potential ecological concern identified in the SI were six metals (aluminum, beryllium, manganese, mercury, selenium, and zinc), four PAH compounds (anthracene, benzo[a]pyrene, fluoranthene, and pyrene), and three pesticides (beta-BHC, endrin, and methoxychlor) in surface soil. The metals detected in site media were all determined to be naturally occurring. The PAHs and pesticides were judged not to pose an unacceptable risk to ecological receptors.

## SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Remedial actions were not conducted at the Range, Choccolocco Corridor, Parcel 143Q.

## DESCRIPTION OF NO FURTHER ACTION

Remedial alternatives were not developed for Parcel 143Q. No further action is selected because remedial action for CERCLA-related hazardous substances is unnecessary to protect human health and the environment at this site. The metals and chemical compounds detected in site media do not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. Therefore, the site is released for unrestricted land reuse with regard to CERCLA-related hazardous substances.

With regard to CERCLA-related hazardous substances, the U.S. Army will not take any further action to investigate, remediate, or monitor the Range, Choccolocco Corridor, Parcel 143Q. There are no remedial costs associated with this course of action.

## DECLARATION

Remedial action for CERCLA-related hazardous substances is unnecessary at the Range, Choccolocco Corridor, Parcel 143Q. The no further action remedy protects human health and the environment, complies with relevant federal and state regulations, and is a cost-effective application of public funds. This remedy will not leave in place hazardous substances at concentrations that require limiting the future use of the parcel or that require land-use control restrictions. The site is released for unrestricted land reuse with regard to CERCLA-related hazardous substances.

## QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Any questions or comments concerning this Decision Document or other documents in the administrative record can be directed to:

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## ACRONYMS

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| BCT | BRAC Cleanup Team |
| BRAC | Base Realignment and Closure |
| CERCLA | Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act |
| CERFA | Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act |
| DOD | U.S. Department of Defense |
| EBS | environmental baseline survey |
| EPA | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency |
| ESE | Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. |
| ESV | ecological screening value |
| FTMC | Fort McClellan |
| PAH | polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbon |
| SAIC | Science Applications International Corporation |
| Shaw | Shaw Environmental, Inc. |
| SI | site investigation |
| SSSL | site-specific screening level |
| SVOC | semivolatile organic compound |
| VOC | volatile organic compound |

**Prepared under direction of:**

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